UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/821,433	04/09/2004	Bryan A. Scott	19001.00151	1236

7590 05/31/2007

Steven Thrasher
391 Sandhill Dr.
Richardson, TX 75080

EXAMINER	
CHOWDHURY, AFROZA Y	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2629	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
05/31/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/821,433	SCOTT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Afroza Y. Chowdhury	2609	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. There is no need to cite/ discuss MPEP patent laws in the specification.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 17 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 19. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4–7, 9, 10, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Weinzierl et al. (US Pub. 20010040561).

As to claim 1, Weinzierl et al. discloses an apparatus comprising: a port integrated within a keyboard form factor (fig. 3(400), page 3, [0029], day planner portfolio system);

the port (fig. 3(410), page 4, [0045]) adapted to couple with a handheld computer (fig. 3(110), page 3, [0029], PDA);

a processor (fig.3(420), page 3, [0029]) maintained in the keyboard form factor (fig. 3(400), page 3, [0029], day planner portfolio system), the processor (fig.3(420), page 3, [0029]) coupled to the port (fig. 3(410), page 4, [0045]);

a network interface (fig.3(410), page 3, [0029]) coupled to the processor (fig.3(420), page 3, [0029]);

at least one keyboard key (fig.3(460), page 3, [0031]) coupled to the processor (fig.3(420), page 3, [0029]);

the processor (fig.3(420), page 3, [0029]) having memory (fig.3(440), page 3, [0030]);

and the memory (fig.3(440), page 3, [0030]) stores code that enables the network interface (fig.3(410), page 3, [0029]) and at least one keyboard key (fig.3(460), page 3, [0031]) coupled to the processor (fig.3(420), page 3, [0029]) to communicate with a handheld computer (fig. 3(110), page 3, [0029], PDA) coupled to the port.

As to claim 2, Weinzierl et al. teaches an apparatus wherein the port is a Universal Serial Palm Connector (fig. 3(410), page 4, [0045]).

As to claim 4, Weinzierl et al. teaches an apparatus wherein the code is adapted to configure a network connection (page 2, [0026]).

As to claim 5, Weinzierl et al. discloses an apparatus comprising a keyboard processor (page 3, [0029]) coupled to the processor (fig.3(420), page 3, [0029]) and to at least one keyboard key (fig.3(460), page 3, [0031]), the keyboard processor (page 3, [0029]) generates a unique character associated with a key when the key is articulated.

As to claim 6, Weinzierl et al. teaches an apparatus wherein the keyboard form factor is a collapsible travel handheld computer (fig. 2,4).

As to claim 7, Weinzierl et al. teaches an apparatus wherein the keyboard form factor is a PDA thumb board (page 3, [0028]).

As to claim 9, Weinzierl et al discloses an apparatus wherein the handheld computer is a smart phone (page 3, [0028]).

As to claim 10, Weinzierl et al. teaches an apparatus wherein the handheld computer is a personal digital assistant (fig. 3(110), page 3, [0029], PDA).

As to claim 12, Weinzierl et al teaches an apparatus wherein the network connection is 802.11 (pages 4-5, [0045]).

As to claim 13, Weinzierl et al teaches an apparatus wherein the network connection is Bluetooth (pages 4-5, [0045]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinzierl et al. (US Pub. 20010040561).

As to claim 3, Weinzierl et al. teaches a day planner portfolio system wherein the system memory includes read only memory (ROM) that stores program algorithm to process data. Therefore it would be obvious that the processor is an embedded processor.

7. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinzierl et al. (US Pub. 20010040561) in view of Gerstner et al. (US Pub. 2004/0004603).

As to claim 8, Weinzierl et al. teaches an portfolio system comprising a second port (fig. 7(730), page 4, [0042]) coupled to the processor (fig. 3(420), page 3, [0029]). Weinzierl et al does not teach a portfolio system wherein the second port is a USB port.

Gerstner et al. teaches a notebook computer with a USB port (page 2, [0031]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the portfolio system of Weinzierl et al. with the notebook computer of Gerstner et al. to build a portfolio system that has a USB port as a second port in order to have plug-and-play capability without rebooting the system.

8. Claims 11, 14–17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinzierl et al. (US Pub. 20010040561) in view of Sherman (US Pub. 2004/0161111).

As to claim 11, Weinzierl et al. discloses an apparatus comprising a second port (fig. 7(730), page 4, [0042]) coupled to the processor (fig.3(420), page 3, [0029]) and integrated with the keyboard form factor (fig. 3(400), page 3, [0029], day planner portfolio system).

Weinzierl et al. does not teach a device that is coupled with a mouse.

Sherman teaches a communication system including a mouse (fig. 2(102)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Sherman's communication system with the wireless

planner system of Weinzierl et al. to build a handheld computer in order to control the display elements using mouse cursor.

As to claim 14, Weinzierl et al discloses an apparatus comprising: a port integrated within a keyboard form factor (fig. 3(400), page 3, [0029], day planner portfolio system);

the port (fig. 3(410), page 4, [0045]) adapted to couple with a handheld computer (fig. 3(110), page 3, [0029], PDA);

a processor (fig.3(420), page 3, [0029]) maintained in the keyboard form factor (fig. 3(400), page 3, [0029], day planner portfolio system),

the processor (fig.3(420), page 3, [0029]) coupled to the port;

a network interface (fig.3(410), page 3, [0029]) coupled to the processor (fig.3(420), page 3, [0029]);

at least one keyboard key (fig. 3(400), page 3, [0029]) coupled to the processor (fig.3(420), page 3, [0029]);

a second port (fig. 7(730), page 4, [0042]) coupled to the processor (fig.3(420), page 3, [0029]) and integrated with the keyboard form factor (fig. 3(400), page 3, [0029], day planner portfolio system);

the second port (fig. 7(730), page 4, [0042]) adapted to communicatively couple with an input device;

the processor (fig.3(420), page 3, [0029]) having memory (fig.3(440), page 3, [0030]);

and the memory (fig.3(440), page 3, [0030]) stores a code that enables the input device coupled to the second port (fig. 7(730), page 4, [0042]) to communicate with a handheld computer (fig. 3(110), page 3, [0029], PDA) coupled to the port .

Weinzierl et al. does not teach a device that is coupled with a mouse and code to adapt a display mouse cursor.

Sherman teaches a communication system including a mouse (fig. 2(102)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Sherman's communication system with the wireless planner system of Weinzierl et al. to build a handheld computer in order to control the display elements using mouse cursor.

As to claim 15 and 16, Weinzierl et al.teaches a wireless device with 802.11 (pages 4-5, [0045]). It is well known in the art that an 802.11 signal is a short-range radio signal.

As to claim 17 and 19, Sherman teaches an apparatus wherein the memory (fig.3(440), page 3, [0030]) comprises a mouse interface (fig. 2(102), page 3, [0034]) that converts a mouse input value received on the second port (fig. 7(730), page 4, [0042]) into a signal representing that input value for a handheld computer (fig. 3(110), page 3, [0029], PDA) coupled to the port.

9. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinzierl et al. (US Pub. 20010040561) in view of Sherman (US Pub. 2004/0161111) and in further view of Snow et al. (US Patent 6546434).

As to claim 18, Weinzierl et al. (as modified by Sherman) teaches a handheld computer. Weinzierl et al. (as modified by Sherman) does not teach a virtual communication driver.

Snow et al. discloses a virtual communication driver (fig. 1(16), VCOMM).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the virtual communication driver of Snow et al. with the handheld computer of Weinzierl et al. (as modified by Sherman) to build a handheld computer with a virtual communication driver on it in order to enable communication between windows operating system and software applications.

10. Claims 20–22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinzierl et al. (US Pub. 20010040561) in view of Sherman (US Pub. 2004/0161111) and in further view of Hunt et al. (US Pub. 2004/0039862).

As to claim 20, Weinzierl et al. teaches a method in a computer system, comprising: a first port (fig. 3(410), page 4, [0045]) integrated with a keyboard form factor (fig. 3(400), page 3, [0029], day planner portfolio system),

the first port (fig. 3(410), page 4, [0045]) also being coupled to a processor (fig.3(420), page 3, [0029]) maintained in the keyboard form factor (fig. 3(400), page 3, [0029], day planner portfolio system);

automatically enabling an input device coupled to a second port to communicate with a handheld computer (fig. 3(110), page 3, [0029], PDA) coupled to the first port (fig. 3(410), page 4, [0045]);

wherein the first port (fig. 3(410), page 4, [0045]) and the second port (fig. 7(730), page 4, [0042]) are integrated within a keyboard (fig.3(460), page 3, [0031]).

Weinzierl et al. does not teach a device with a mouse and a computer system for detecting a docking event.

Sherman teaches a communication system including a mouse (fig. 2(102), [0034] – [0035]).

Hunt et al. teaches docking and undocking event of a multi-head computer system (fig. 9, 10, 13,14, page 8, [0068], [0071]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Sherman's communication system with the wireless planner system of Weinzierl et al. and further combine the docking detection of Hunt et al. with Weinzierl et al. (as modified by Sherman) to build a handheld computer in order to control the display elements on handheld computer using mouse cursor and configure the computer system (Hunt et al., abstract).

As to claim 21, it would be obvious for a software system disabling the input elements of a handheld computing device that is coupled to the first port when a detect undocking act occurs.

As to claim 22, it would be obvious for a software system enabling a sleep act after a detect undocking act occurs.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Afroza Y. Chowdhury whose telephone number is 571-270-1543. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00 EST, 5/4/9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amare Mengistu can be reached on 571-272-7674. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AC

5/24/2007

XIAO WU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER